In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-14 and 16-20 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 15 as follows.

Please add new claims 21-60 as follows.

1 - 14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A vacuum cleaner comprising:

a nozzle section;

a housing section pivotally connected to said nozzle section and in fluid communication with said nozzle section;

a dirt cup selectively mounted in said housing section;

a ~~cyclonic airflow~~ particle collecting chamber located in said dirt cup for ~~separating~~ collecting dirt and dust separated from a suction airstream flowing ~~into said housing section~~ through said dirt cup between ~~an~~ an inlet ~~located adjacent a first end of said housing~~ radially displaced from a longitudinal axis of said particle collecting chamber and an axial outlet ~~located adjacent a second end of said housing section~~ of said dirt cup;

a filter assembly located in said ~~housing section~~ dirt cup;

said filter assembly comprising:

a filter ~~rack~~ support, and

a first filter element mounted on said filter ~~rack~~ support.

16 - 20. (Cancelled).

21. (New) An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

a nozzle base including a suction opening;

an upright housing hingedly mounted on said nozzle base;

a dirt cup selectively removable from an opening defined in said housing, said dirt cup having an open upper end;

a suction source located in one of said nozzle base and said upright housing and being in fluid communication with said suction opening, said suction source being located beneath said dirt cup, wherein said dirt cup is in fluid communication with said suction opening and said suction source;

a filter member mounted in said dirt cup and selectively removable therefrom;

a particle collection chamber defined in said dirt cup for collecting particles separated from an associated airstream flowing from said suction opening through said filter; and,

a closure for selectively covering said open upper end of said dirt cup.

22. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 21 further comprising a latch mechanism for selectively securing said dirt cup to said housing.

23. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 21 further comprising a conduit for facilitating fluid communication between said suction opening and said dirt cup.

24. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 21 further comprising a final filter located downstream from said suction source.

25. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 24 wherein one of said filter member and said

final filter comprises a high efficiency particulate arrest (HEPA) filter medium.

26. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 21 wherein said dirt cup has an axis and said filter has an axis which is coaxial with said dirt cup axis.

27. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 21 wherein said dirt cup further comprises a handle.

28. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 21 wherein said filter extends along an axis which is parallel to an axis of said dirt cup.

29. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 28 wherein said filter is approximately cylindrical in shape.

30. (New) An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

a base portion;

an upright housing hingedly connected to the base portion and including an opening;

a dirt cup removably positioned in said opening of said upright housing;

a suction source mounted in one of said base portion and said upright housing, such that said suction source is located beneath said dirt cup;

a first filter located in and removable with said dirt cup for filtering an associated airstream passing through said dirt cup;

a second filter located downstream from said suction source, wherein at least one of said first and second filters comprises a high efficiency particulate arrest (HEPA) filter medium.

31. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 wherein said dirt cup comprises a particle collection chamber for collecting particles separated from the associated airstream flowing from said suction opening through said filter.

32. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 wherein said filter is releasably secured to said dirt cup.

33. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 32 wherein said dirt cup and said filter are movable as a unit relative to said upright housing.

34. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 further comprising a first conduit for facilitating fluid communication between said suction opening and said dirt cup.

35. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 34 further comprising a second conduit for facilitating fluid communication between said dirt cup and said suction source.

36. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 wherein said first filter comprises a convoluted outer surface.

37. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 wherein said first filter comprises a thermoplastic material.

38. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 wherein said dirt cup has an axis and said first filter has an axis which is coaxial with said dirt cup axis.

39. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 wherein said dirt cup further comprises a handle.

40. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 further comprising a filter support on which said first filter is mounted.

41. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 wherein said first filter is approximately cylindrical in shape.

42. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 wherein said first filter has an open central section extending along a longitudinal axis of said first filter.

43. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 30 wherein said dirt cup further comprises a latch assembly for selectively securing said dirt cup to said upright housing.

44. (New) An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

a base portion;

an upright housing hingedly connected to the base portion and including an opening;

a dirt cup removably positioned in said opening of said upright housing;

a suction source mounted in one of said base portion and said upright housing;

a filter located in and removable with said dirt cup for filtering an associated airstream passing through said dirt cup; and,

a particle collecting chamber located in said dirt cup, said particle collection chamber including:

a longitudinal axis,

an entrance to said particle collection chamber being oriented approximately normal to said longitudinal axis, and

an exit from said particle collection chamber being oriented parallel to said longitudinal axis.

45. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 further comprising a filter support member by which said filter is supported.

46. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 wherein said filter is releasably secured to said dirt cup.

47. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 46 wherein said dirt cup and said filter are movable as a unit relative to said upright housing.

48. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 further comprising a conduit for facilitating fluid communication between said suction opening and said dirt cup.

49. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 further comprising a final filter located downstream from said suction source.

50. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 wherein one of said filter member and said final filter comprises a high efficiency particulate arrest (HEPA) filter medium.

51. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 wherein said filter extends along an axis which is parallel to an axis of said dirt cup.

52. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 51 wherein said filter has an open central section along which said filter axis extends.

53. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 wherein said dirt cup further comprises a handle.

54. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 further comprising a brushroll rotatably mounted to said nozzle base.

55. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 wherein said filter is approximately cylindrical in shape.

56. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 wherein said filter comprises a thermoplastic material.

57. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 15 wherein said first filter element is selectively removable from said filter support and removable from said dirt cup.

58. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 15 wherein said first filter element has an open central section which extends along an axis of said first filter element.

59. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 15 further comprising a second filter element spaced from said first filter element.

60. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 59 wherein one of said first filter element and said second filter element comprises a high efficiency particulate arrest (HEPA) filter medium.